

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT O 03858 231959Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 HA-05 MCT-01 /075 W  
-----005607 240304Z /75

R 231900Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1762  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 3858

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PORS TD  
SUBJ: FURTHER ARSON ATTEMPTS IN BUSINESS DISTRICT  
UNSUCCESSFUL

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 3808

1. THE QUESTION OF HOW THE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR FIRES  
IN PORT OF SPAIN (REFTEL) WERE STARTED, BUT NOT OF WHO WAS  
RESPONSIBLE, MAY HAVE BEEN SETTLED WITH THE DISCOVERY OF  
FOUR GIFT-WRAPPED INCENDIARY DEVICES IN TWO MAJOR DOWNTOWN  
STORES DECEMBER 22. THE CHANCE DISCOVERY OF ONE SUCH  
CLOCK-ACTIVATED DEVICE AT WELL-KNOWN JEWELRY FIRM, LED  
TO A SEARCH WHICH TURNED UP THE OTHER THREE. ACCORDING  
TO THE POLICE, ALL FOUR DEVICES WERE SET TO GO OFF AT  
MIDNIGHT.

2. WHILE CLARIFYING THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF THE ORIGINAL  
FIRES, NOW ESTIMATED TO HAVE CAUSED \$20 -25 MILLION  
DAMAGE AND COST ABOUT 800 WORKERS THEIR JOBS, THE  
DISCOVERY OF THE INCENDIARY DEVICES INCREASES CON-  
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FUSION ABOUT MOTIVATION OF ARSONISTS SINCE THE  
JEWELRY FIRM WHERE THREE OF THE BOMBS WERE FOUND, IS  
OWNED BY A PROMINENT FAMILY OF VENEZUELAN ORIGIN.  
HOWEVER, THE OTHER STORE, MOUSHAK'S, REPORTEDLY IS  
LEBANESE-SYRIAN OWNED. VARIOUS THEORIES ARE CIRCULATING  
ABOUT THE INCIDENTS--A GENERAL PLOT TO  
DESTROY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, A SPECIFIC PLOT

AGAINST THE LEBANESE-SYRIAN COMMUNITY HERE, AND  
FINALLY EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A BLOOD FUED WITHIN  
LEBANESE-SYRIAN COMMUNITY.

3. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS RELATING TO THE FIRES THUS  
FAR HAVE CENTERED ON FINDING JOBS FOR DISPLACED  
EMPLOYEES. BOTH MINLAB AND T&T BUSINESSMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION REPORTEDLY ARE ENGAGED IN REGISTERING  
WORKERS AND SEEKING NEW POSITIONS FOR THOSE WHO NEED  
THEM. AT SAME TIME DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN  
URGED TO INCREASE THEIR SECURITY MEASURES AND REPORT  
SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING PEOPLE OR PARCELS TO THE AUTHORITIES.  
FOX

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARSON  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PORTO03858  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770480-0864  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771221/aaaaarqn.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a3bdcafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PORT OF SPAIN 3808  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 138895  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER ARSON ATTEMPTS IN BUSINESS DISTRICT UNSUCCESSFUL  
**TAGS:** PORS, TD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a3bdcafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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